

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide for detection or amplification of VT1 RNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to VT1 RNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 5.

2. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide for detection or amplification of VT2 RNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to VT2 RNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 6 to 14.

3. (Currently Amended): A process of detecting VT1 RNA, comprising:
synthesizing cDNA employing wherein a specific sequence of VT1 RNA present in a sample ~~is used as a template for synthesis of a cDNA employing~~ and an RNA dependent DNA polymerase,

digesting the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid ~~is digested by~~ with ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA,

synthesizing said single-stranded DNA is then used as a template for production of a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising said specific sequence or a sequence complementary to said specific sequence employing a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase and said single-stranded DNA as a template,

producing said double-stranded DNA produces an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase from said double-stranded DNA, and

synthesizing cDNA by employing said RNA transcription product is then used as a template for cDNA synthesis ~~employing said~~ and an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase,

wherein the amplification process ~~being characterized by employing~~ employs a first oligonucleotide that comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5

~~and a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NOS: 15, 16, 17, or 18 capable of specifically binding to VT1 RNA and comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 5 and a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 15 to 18,~~

wherein either said first or second oligonucleotide includes said RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

4. (Withdrawn): A process of detecting VT2 RNA, wherein a specific sequence of VT2 RNA present in a sample is used as a template for synthesis of a cDNA employing an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid is digested by ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA, said single-stranded DNA is then used as a template for production of a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising said specific sequence or a sequence complementary to said specific sequence employing a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase, said double-stranded DNA produces an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase, and said RNA transcription product is then used as a template for cDNA synthesis employing said RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the amplification process being characterized by employing a first oligonucleotide capable of specifically binding to VT2 RNA and comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 6 to 14 and a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 19 to 23, where either said first or second oligonucleotide includes the RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

5. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said

amplification process is carried out in the presence of an oligonucleotide probe capable of specifically binding to the RNA transcription product resulting from said amplification and labeled with an intercalator fluorescent pigment, and

changes in the fluorescent properties of the reaction solution ~~is~~ are measured,

with the proviso that the labeled oligonucleotide has a sequence different from those of the first oligonucleotide and the second oligonucleotide in the sequence.

6. (Currently Amended): The ~~detection~~ process according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said oligonucleotide probe is designed so as to complementarily bind to at least a portion of the sequence of said RNA transcription product, and

the fluorescent property changes relative to that of a situation where a complex formation ~~is~~ are absent.

7. (Currently Amended): The ~~detection~~ process according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said oligonucleotide probe for detecting said VT1 mRNA comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ. ID. No. 24 or its complementary sequence.

8. (Withdrawn): The detection process according to claim 5 for detecting said VT2 RNA, characterized in that said oligonucleotide probe comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ. ID. No. 25 or its complementary sequence.

9. (New) The process of Claim 3, wherein said first oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2, which may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

10. (New) The process of Claim 3, wherein said second oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO: 15 or SEQ ID NO: 38.

11. (New) The process of Claim 3, wherein said first oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 4 or 5, which may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

12. (New) The process of Claim 3, wherein said second oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NOS: 16, 17, or 18 which may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

13. (New) A composition comprising oligonucleotides consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 15, wherein said oligonucleotides may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

14. (New) A composition comprising any one of the oligonucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and any one of the oligonucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: 15, 16, 17, or 18, wherein said oligonucleotides may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.